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November 3, 2005

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The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: IB Docket No. 05-221

Dear Chairman Martin:

As Executive Vice President of the Alabama Forestry Association, I am writing about a matter that impacts many in our membership... communications. Despite significant broadband coverage throughout the U.S., many areas still have inadequate coverage. I believe that the satellite industry, because of its ability to provide service everywhere, is one sector that can play a vital role in bringing broadband to millions more Americans.

America must have a mobile communication system that serves *everyone*. Fortunately, a technology called Mobile Satellite Services, or MSS, can provide exactly the universal and high-quality communications that our rural communities desperately need. MSS uses satellite technology that is not affected by terrain or weather to send signals to handsets similar to the mobile phones we use today. By combining MSS with a ground-based system (called ATC), MSS/ATC would provide an *integrated mobile communications network* that can reach even the most remote homes, forests, farms and businesses. MSS's ubiquitous coverage would finally fulfill the promise of high-quality phone service in rural areas – solving a problem that traditional service providers have been unwilling or unable to address. The benefits of this service would also extend to first responders and emergency personnel, for whom reliable, survivable communication is essential in a crisis.

Like all communications technologies, MSS needs enough bandwidth to provide the robust, all-encompassing system our rural communities and first responders require. Currently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is deciding how to allocate MSS spectrum. This presents an opportunity for the FCC to demonstrate its commitment to all Americans by allocating MSS spectrum to the companies that have already demonstrated a commitment to compete and offer these services. MSS technology can help ensure that our citizens, especially our rural communities, have the reliable and seamless coverage they need. Our nation's economy and security may depend on it.

I understand that the Commission will soon determine whether to divide the remaining one-third of the 2 GHz mobile satellite service ("MSS") spectrum between TMI/TerreStar Networks Inc. ("TerreStar") and ICO Satellite Services ("ICO") or take another approach.

I strongly urge the FCC to move expeditiously on this item and support the allocation of this spectrum on a "2x10" basis to these two satellite operators that have already demonstrated a commitment to compete and offer these services. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,


John McMillan, EVP ..

Cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Secretary of the Commission